

President's Message – Water District Update

The TCEQ Commission voted on Wednesday, April 9 to approve the creation of a Watermaster on the Brazos River from the Possum Kingdom reservoir to the Gulf. While we did not get a watermaster for that portion of the river upstream of PK, it is a major victory for those of us on the lower Brazos basin. TECQ staff stated that it will be several months before the Brazos River Watermaster is fully operational, so we do not anticipate any benefit before 2015.

We had the support of every state legislator and state senator from Galveston, Brazoria, and Fort Bend counties – do not hesitate to thank them for their help in this effort. Also, major contributors to our success came from our partners in this effort – Dow Chemical and NRG – kudos to them as well!

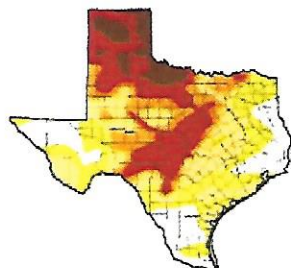
This has been a long process for Gulf Coast Water Authority and Galveston County WCID#12 along with other water right holders who filed a watermaster petition last spring; there was a months long administrative hearing process; two judges found the evidence in support of a watermaster “overwhelming”. GCWA doesn’t use water itself, but supply water to various municipal, industrial and agricultural users – its customers. Because GCWA holds some of the most senior water rights in the Lower Brazos River basin, our water supply should be very reliable. But, the availability of water often depends upon enforcement of the prior appropriation doctrine – senior water rights should be honored before junior rights during droughts. But enforcement is generally lacking unless a priority call is made, and frankly, priority calls result in unilateral orders which can be blunt and extreme instruments. In contrast, a watermaster in the Brazos River basin would have real time data about who needs what amount of water when, and he or she can manage and direct withdrawals all the time to minimize waste while enforcing seniority rules. In other words, a watermaster in the Brazos River will allow GCWA to better serve Galveston County WCID#12 by better protecting GCWA’s senior water rights.

As you may have heard on the news recently, the prediction for our hurricane season is a light one because of El Nina, which is good for those of us who love and enjoy where we live on the Gulf Coast. However, it is predicted not to end our drought situation. The impact of the ongoing drought is that the Possum Kingdom reservoir is only at 65-70% which is lower than this time in 2013. Because of this, there will be no additional water for us to purchase this year from the Brazos River Authority. GCWA contracts to receive 45,000 acre feet annually and have previously purchased an additional 50,000 acre feet, however, the 50,000 additional acre feet will not be available this year. As the drought continues, there will be further restrictions on water use.

A critical moment for water supply in the Brazos River basin is coming and your support is important! For this reason, CONSERVATION is becoming more important for us and you will be hearing much more about that in the near future. Stay tuned for updates and next steps for participation. Our District and the GCWA are working on establishing a Drought Contingency Plan that will be uniform for all GCWA customers and municipalities.

Linda Merryman
President, Galveston Co. WCID #12

U.S. Drought Monitor



April 8, 2014
(Released Thursday, April 10, 2014)
Valid 7 a.m. Eastern

Monitors/Units: 61 stations, 10.24 in/0.8 in, 1 value/units, 0.7 in.

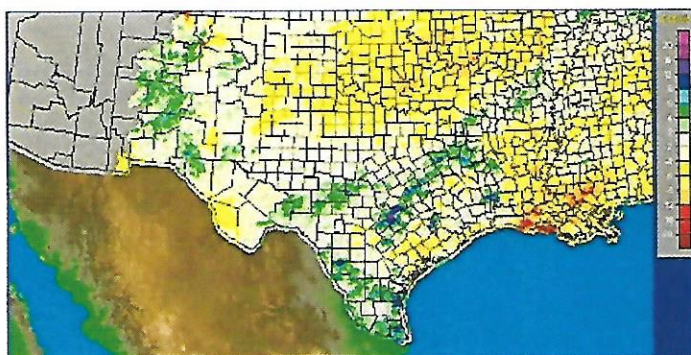
Unit	Value	Intensity	0.04	0.05	0.06	0.07	0.08
Current	49.224	0.04	0.05	0.06	0.07	0.08	0.09
Last Week	47.174	0.04	0.05	0.06	0.07	0.08	0.09
2 Months Ago	47.074	0.04	0.05	0.06	0.07	0.08	0.09
Start of Calendar Year	47.074	0.04	0.05	0.06	0.07	0.08	0.09
Start of Water Year	47.074	0.04	0.05	0.06	0.07	0.08	0.09
One Year Ago	47.074	0.04	0.05	0.06	0.07	0.08	0.09

Intensity
0.04 Moderate Drought
0.05 Severe Drought
0.06 Extreme Drought
0.07 Very Extreme Drought
0.08 Exceptional Drought
0.09 Exceptional Drought

NOAA's National Drought Monitor (NDM) is a map of the United States showing the current status of drought. The map is updated weekly and is available at www.drought.gov.

CURRENT DEPARTURE FROM NORMAL PRECIPITATION

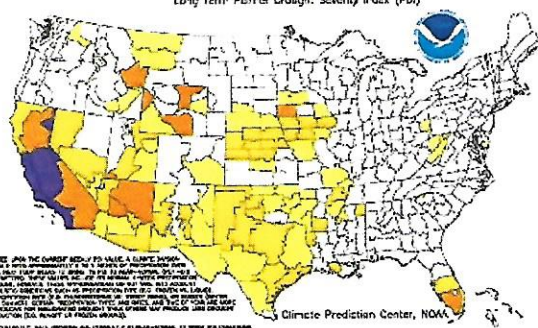
The graphic below shows the amount of rainfall that exceeds or falls short of normal conditions from January 1, 2013 through November 15, 2013.



NEEDED PRECIPITATION

The graphic below shows the amount of rainfall needed for the state to bring each area out of drought conditions.

Additional Precip. Needed (in.) to Bring PDI to -0.5
Weekly Value for Period Ending APR 5, 2014
Long Term Percent Drought Severity Index (PDI)



BASED ON THE CURRENT PDI FOR EACH STATE. A PDI of -0.5 indicates that the area is in a state of drought. The map shows the amount of precipitation needed to bring the PDI back to -0.5. The map is updated weekly and is available at www.drought.gov.

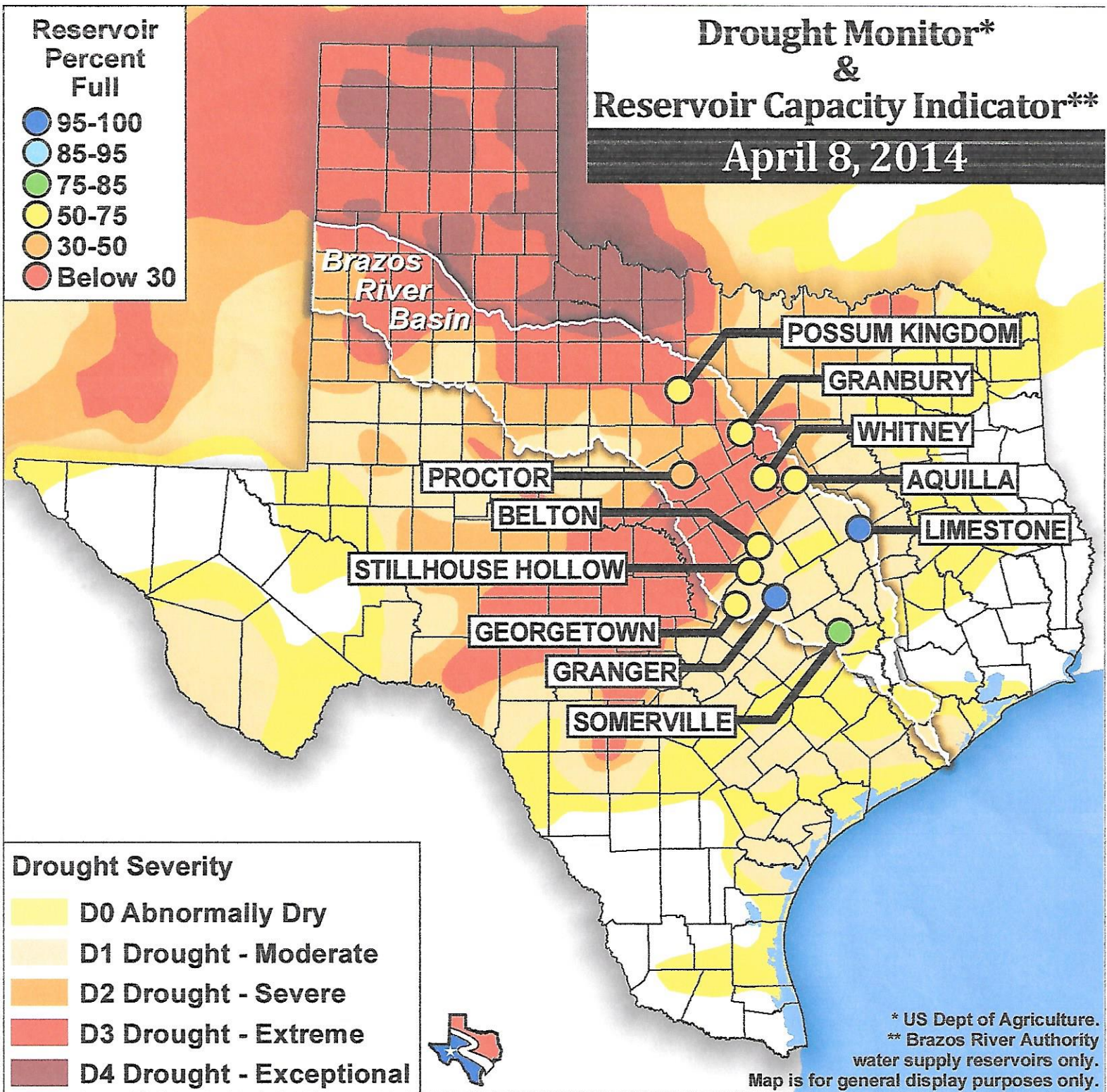
EXAMPLE - If a state needs precipitation to 2 inches and has not yet received 2 inches, the value is 2.
Legend:
Zero Inches
Trace to 3 Inches
3 to 6 Inches
6 to 9 Inches
9 to 12 Inches
12 to 15 Inches
Over 15 Inches

**Reservoir
Percent
Full**

- 95-100
- 85-95
- 75-85
- 50-75
- 30-50
- Below 30

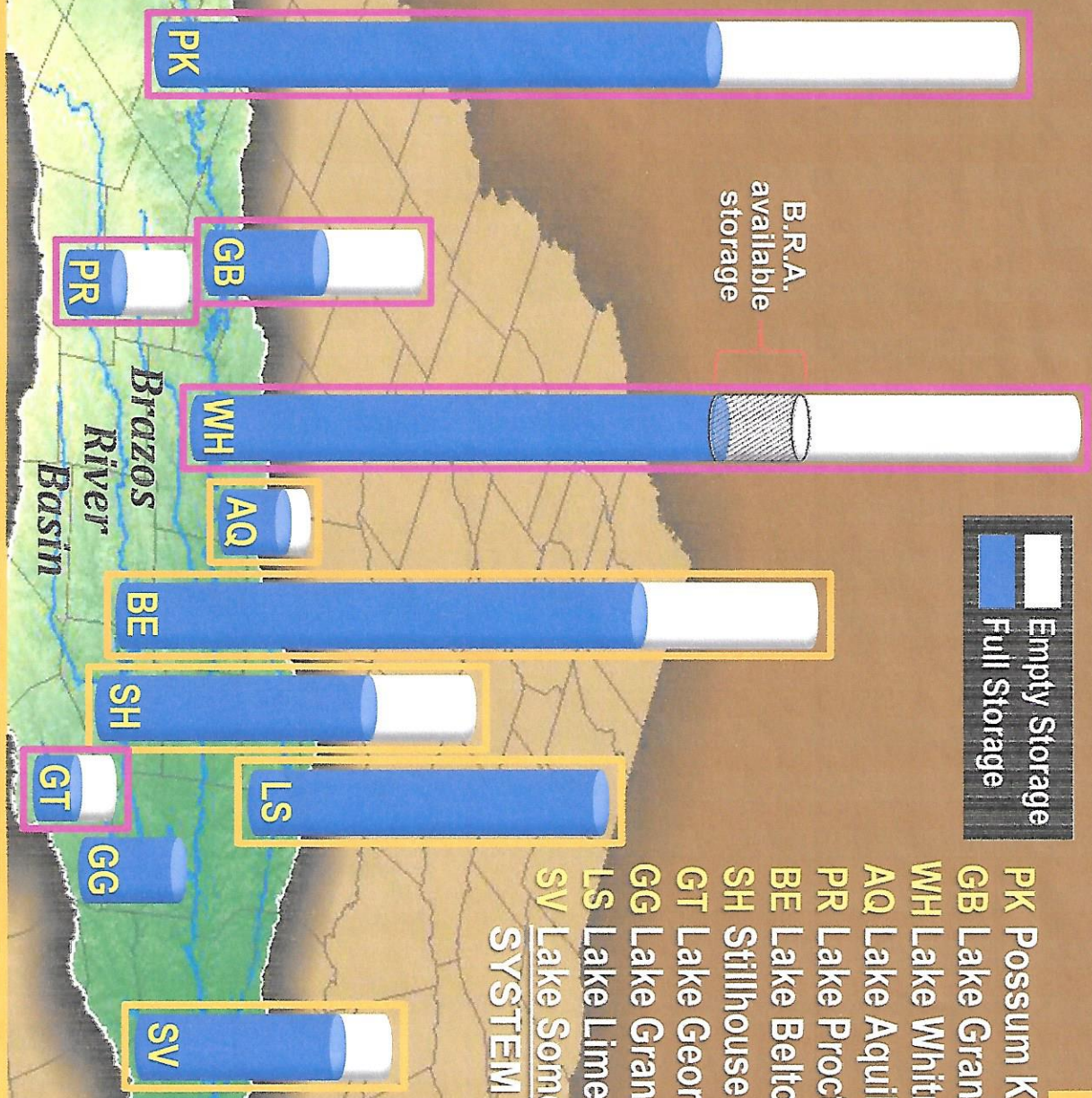
**Drought Monitor*
&
Reservoir Capacity Indicator****

April 8, 2014



B.R.A. Water Supply Reservoirs "PERCENT FULL" for April 9, 2014

Combined Storage of Authority System is Below Stage 1 Drought Watch Storage Trigger



	% Full	Drawdown
PK Possum Kingdom Lake	65%	- 13.1
GB Lake Granbury	54%	- 9.9
WH Lake Whitney	*6%	- 12.2
AQ Lake Aquilla	73%	- 4.4
PR Lake Proctor	45%	- 8.6
BE Lake Belton	75%	- 9.7
SH Stillhouse Hollow Lake	72%	- 11.4
GT Lake Georgetown	57%	- 14.3
GG Lake Granger	101%	- 0.0
LS Lake Limestone	100%	- 0.0
SV Lake Somerville	82%	- 2.5
SYSTEM TOTAL	71%	

*B.R.A. available storage only.
Overall, Lake Whitney 60% full.
Feet below full

- Stage 1 Drought Watch
- Stage 2 Drought Warning
- Stage 3 Drought Emergency
- Stage 4 Pro-rata Curtailment